

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-10 EB-07 COME-00 AF-06

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R 261853Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3232

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3610

MADRID ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ADMIRAL COUTINHO'S SPEECH TO AMERICAN CLUB

1. ON JUNE 26 ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL SPOKE TO THE AMERICAN CLUB OF LISBON. HE SAID NOTHING NEW OR STARTLING BUT SEVERAL OF HIS POINTS ARE OF INTEREST:

2. AFM AS LIBERATION FRONT: ROSA COUTINHO (RC) DEFINED THE AFM AS A LIBERATION FRONT SAYING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION AND A LIBERATION FRONT WAS THAT A LIBERATION FRONT, AS HAS HAPPENED IN AFRICA, IS AN ORGANIZATION THAT CONTINUES ITS ACTIVITY AFTER THE REVOLUTION.

3. SOCIALIST PATH: RC SAID THAT AFM WAS FOR PLURALISM,
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REJECTED ANY KIND OF DICTATORSHIP, AND WOULD NOT

PREDETERMINE OUTCOME FOR PORTUGUESE PEOPLE. HOWEVER, IT IS DETERMINED TO BRING SOCIALISM TO PORTUGAL.

4. FOREIGN INVESTMENT: THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT CODE IS ALMOST READY AND A GROUP WILL BE TRAVELLING AROUND EUROPE SHORTLY TO EXPLAIN IT. HE SAID THAT BUSINESSMEN WOULD FIND IT VERY ACCEPTABLE.

5. PRIVATE BUSINESS: THERE WILL BE A PLACE FOR PRIVATE BUSINESS AND PRIVATE PROPERTY IN A SOCIALIST PORTUGAL BUT PRIVATE BUSINESS MUST NOT DOMINATE THE POLITICAL STRUCTURE.

6. U.S. IMAGE: U.S. USED TO BE A STAR FOR POOR PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD TO LOOK TO AS THE EXAMPLE OF FREEDOM. HOWEVER, IN LAST GENERATION IMAGE HAD CHANGED AND NOW RICH PEOPLE LOOK TO U.S. HE HOPED U.S. WOULD CHANGE ITS IMAGE.

7. WEST LET PORTUGAL DOWN: RC SAID THAT THE WEST AFTER WORLD WAR II HAD LET PORTUGAL DOWN BY NOT DRIVING OUT THE FASCISTS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS AFTER HIS SPEECH RC SAID FOLLOWING:

9. ANGOLA: AFM COULD ACCEPT ANY TRUE LIBERATION MOVEMENT. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE ANY OR ALL OF THE THREE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. HE PERSONALLY FAVORED MPLA (RC MADE NO COMMENT THIS TIME ABOUT MOBUTU OR ZAIREL).

10. COMMUNISM: WHEN ASKED TO DEFINE COMMUNISM, RC SAID THAT COMMUNISM WAS AN IDEAL WHICH EXISTED NOWHERE IN THE WORLD TODAY.

11. U.S. AND PORTUGAL: ASKED IF U.S. WOULD SEEK TO CRUSH PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION AS IT HAD IN CASE OF VIET-NAM, CUBA AND CHILE, RC SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO, HOPED NOT AND ASKED FOR MUTUAL SYMPATHY IN DIALOGUE WITH U.S.

12. COMMENT: SPEAKING TO A VERY SKEPTICAL AUDIENCE IN FLUENT ENGLISH, ROSA COUTINHO HANDLED HIMSELF WELL WITH AN INTELLIGENT PRESENTATION THAT WAS TOUGH IN PLACES
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AND DEFTLY SKIPPED THE MORE EMBARRASSING QUERIES.
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